The Cary Arboretum

of The New York Botanical Garden

A Newsletter published for Friends of the Arboretum
by the Public Affairs Department.

November-December 1978

Box AB
Millbrook, N.Y. 12545

Volume IV, Number 6

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New Benefit for Members: Arboretum Circulating Library

Ms. Linda Vigars, the newly appointed Cary Arboretum Librarian, has announced the opening of a circulating collection of books that may be borrowed by members of Friends of the Cary Arboretum.

The circulating collection was made possible by a generous grant from the Urban Forestry Organization, founded by Janet Adams, Pine Plains, New York, and the donation of many books from the Arboretum's regular collection.

The general nature of the collection is horticultural, with the emphasis on "how-to" books. Fifty-eight well-written handbooks published by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the seven volumes of the Time-Life Encyclopedia of Gardening, containing beautiful illustrative photographs, supplement the regular collection of ninety-one volumes.

The collection contains information on the growing and care of specific flowers, such as orchids, camellias, chrysanthemums, roses, African violets, annuals and perennials. Greenhouse gardening, artificial light gardening, bonsai and miniature gardens, rock gardens, organic gardening, water gardens and vegetable gardening are other aspects of plant cultivation covered in the circulating collection. For the home owner, there are books on shrubs and trees, pruning, lawn care, ground covers and landscaping. Several books, yet to arrive, will cover wine-making, edible plants and wildflower identification.

Since the Library receives many requests for information on alternative sources of energy, the circulating collection will add to its shelves, at a future date, books on solar energy, wind power, and wood-burning power. Also, in the future, material on other aspects of the environment will be included.

Ms. Vigars says that books of particular interest to the borrower may be selected by using the card catalog of the circulating collection which is housed on the shelf next to the collection. The catalog is very simply divided by general subject headings. A card for each book is placed after the appropriate subject by the author's last name in alphabetical order. Of course, the Friends of the Arboretum are welcome to browse the circulating collection or to ask the assistance of the Librarian or Mary Blankenburg, the Assistant Librarian.

The Cary Arboretum Library is open to the public five days a week (Monday through Friday) from 9:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. On a three-month trial basis, the Library also is now open to the public on Wednesday evenings until 7:30 p.m. Hopefully, these extra hours will give those who cannot make it during the day a chance to use the Library.

Since the original grant which provided most of the books in the circulating collection has been almost exhausted, the Library at the Arboretum is actively seeking donations of books and funds to keep this collection growing. Any books in the fields of horticulture, applied botany, ecology or environmental resources would be welcome additions to the lending library.

Altai Mountains – The Asian Rockies?

Dr. Thomas S. Elias, Assistant Director of the Arboretum, recently returned from a highly successful camping/collecting trip in Russia's Altai Mountains, which are very similar to the Rocky Mountains of North America.

The group of three American and seven Russian botanists is the first ever to correlate information on specimens from both mountain regions. According to Dr. Elias, information on the very rich, diverse flora of both localities will be valuable in studying the evolution and distribution of plants around the world.

The Cary Arboretum scientist collected 300 specimens of mosses, 150 packages of seeds

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The Scarecrow Contest at the Cary Arboretum's "Fall-For-All" Festival October 15 attracted this scary specimen as well as 2,100 visitors. (See story on page 2).

Arboretum Leaf Calendar – 1979

Have a leafy New Year and give one to your family and friends!

Arboretum Director Willard W. Payne and his artist-wife June Payne have designed an unusual decorator wall calendar, illustrated with hand-drawn leaves of native and cultivated species growing at the Arboretum.

Unique vertical design with large Sunday letter shows date at a glance.

Expert botanical and horticultural information on woody plants for each month of the year.

Regularly $4.50; price to Friends of the Arboretum $4.05, plus tax. Further discounts available for orders in lots of ten.

On sale at Plant and Gift Shop, Gifford House, or by mail to Calendar, Cary Arboretum, Box AB, Millbrook, New York 12545.

"Fall-For-All" was "Fun-For-Everyone"

Text and Photos by Robin Parow

Clanking motors of antique farm machinery . . . colorful helium-filled balloons against the autumn-stained trees and deep-blue sky . . . the jingle of bells as traditional folk dancers circled a 12-foot unicorn to the accompaniment of a rejoicing fiddle . . .

The 2,100 people who turned out for the Cary Arboretum's first "Fall-For-All" festival were treated to the season's best. The sunny briskness of a mid-autumn Sunday turned out to be a day of entertainment, bargains and educational experiences from bee-raising to plant propagation.

Children riding the 20-foot haywagon appeared as silhouettes along the brightly sunlit hillside as "grown ups" ventured off to booths which offered a variety of tips on chainsaw sharpening, deer hunting, vegetable dyeing, bulb planting and wine pressing.

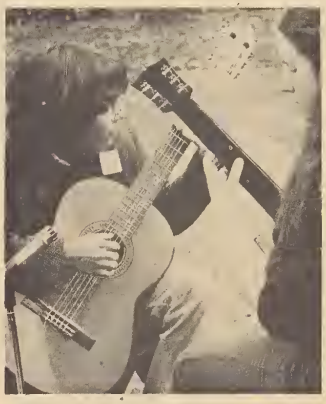
As the day progressed, pounds of hot sausage and peppers, apples, donuts, gallons of milk, coffee and cider, were purchased and transferred from the outdoor kitchen to picnic tables where families listened to folk music and poetry by local artists.

A major highlight, and one of the first attractions visitors were confronted with, was a day-long rare plant raffle. Here visitors could buy three chances on a wide selection of exotic plants for 50¢. "I'd like three chances on the *Acer griseum!*", one woman called out as a crowd surrounded the table.

The Morris dancers, a group of traditional English folk dancers from Dutchess County, amazed the youngsters with their versatility and had a pied-piper effect wherever they went. A young man who served as the fiddler and moderator for the group announced that the appearance at Cary would be their last of the year. "It's too bloody cold!"

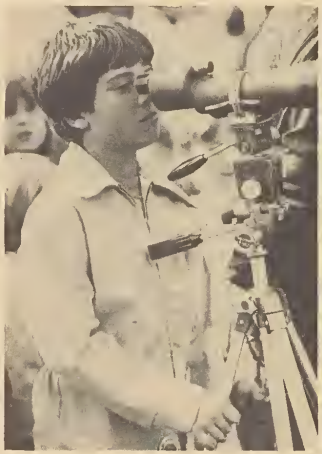
Across the lawn at the Gifford House Education and Visitor Center, potted plants, post-cards, perfumery, posters and pillows were among the saleable items offered to visitors who came in from the cold. The most popular items, though, were the beautiful *Streptocarpus* plants whose delicately pastelled blossoms enhanced the Gifford House plant room with splashes of color.

The Fall-For-All Festival was by no means confined to the Gifford House property. Busses left at scheduled times from the parking lot and, accompanied by a Cary tour-guide, visitors were able to scan the Fall-tinged 2,000-acre grounds through the fern glen, lowlands, forest and planting areas. Optional tours through the solar-heated Plant Science Building were offered where tourists could also watch a screening of the Arboretum's award-winning film "A Gift Of Land."



Back at home base, the winners of the scare-crow contest were announced; visiting volunteers waited on line to help run the cider mill; and children stood by their pumpkins with anticipation as the faces they had drawn were transformed into real jack o' lanterns by a small staff of skilled pumpkin carvers.

"Try some sumac ade! It's really delicious!" The wild food tasting table was lined with taste-testers from noon 'til five. Further down the pine tree allée, staff members presented information on wood-burning stoves, solar heating, and horticultural information from literature to an official "Plant Doctor" who gave verbal prescriptions for ailing house-plants.



Peter Dykeman, Education Director and the coordinator of this invigorating day, took part in the festivities, as did the 70 staff members and volunteers who gave up the Sunday afternoon World Series game for a day of autumnal activities and rosy cheeks. This year, autumn at the Cary Arboretum was definitely a "Fall-For-All." Wait 'til next year!

Altai Mountains — The Asian Rockies?

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from living plants, and 4,000 dried herbarium specimens as the research group travelled south along alpine and subalpine vegetation areas, coniferous and deciduous forests and the cold steppe desert leading to the Mongolian border. Among the highlights of the trip were visits to the homes of native Altai people, at which the research crew was invited to sample traditional food and to spend the night.

Dr. Elias coordinates this research project in conjunction with the U. S. Department of the Interior as part of an international science exchange program under the category of "Threatened or Endangered Species of Plants and the Introduction of Exotic Species." This year's expedition was the third year of active botanical exchanges between the U.S. and U.S.S.R. Dr. Elias took part in the first botanical exchange in 1976, travelling to the Caucasus Mountains region. Last year Horticulturist Robert Hebb represented the Arboretum on an expedition to Central Asia.

In a protocol agreement signed in Moscow by all members of the 1978 expedition, it was stated that an expansion of the program in 1979 will include botanical expeditions to new areas rich in floristic significance in both countries.

Committee Named for "Music at the Arboretum"

A committee of distinguished area citizens has been named to advise the Arboretum on future musical programs sponsored by the Arboretum as a public service to the community.

Dr. Payne, Director of the Arboretum, and Imre Pallo, Music Director and Conductor of the Hudson Valley Philharmonic, jointly invited the members of the new group to serve. Their letter of invitation said the committee would "help us make sound plans for future concerts and ensure that our efforts serve the musical needs and interests of the Dutchess County area."

The committee's work is the outgrowth of the successful series of four concerts held at the Arboretum last summer. The music was provided by the Hudson Valley Philharmonic.

Members of the committee for "Music at the Arboretum" are: Mrs. J. P. Benkard, Pleasant Valley; Mrs. Francis M. Greene, Poughkeepsie; Mrs. John S. Kubie, Millbrook; Mrs. Amos R. Newcombe, Kingston; Mrs. June M. Payne, Millbrook; Mrs. Charles B. Podmaniczky, Pleasant Valley; Ms. Marianne J. Scialli, Passaic, New Jersey; Mrs. Elvin Seibert, Millbrook; Ms. Roseann Shankman, Millbrook; Mrs. Joseph P. Tumblety, Millbrook; Mrs. Allerton Cushman, Millbrook.

The first meeting of the group took place October 27 at the Arboretum Tea House.

Museum Grant Award

The Cary Arboretum has received a grant of $25,000 toward educational operating expenses from the Institute of Museum Services, a recently created Federal agency within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The Institute provides grant funds to a wide range of cultural institutions, including art, history and science museums, zoos, botanical gardens, science-technology centers, aquaria, planetaria, and general and specialized museums that provide significant educational and cultural services to the public.

The Arboretum was one of 256 institutions selected from 859 applicants which submitted proposals to the Institute. The New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx also received a grant for the same amount. Created by Title II of the Arts, Humanities and Cultural Affairs Act of 1976, the Institute is the first Federal agency authorized to provide general operating support, as well as project support, to museums.

Mrs. Lee Kimche, the Director of the Institute, said, in announcing the Institute's first grant awards which totalled $3.7 million, "The establishment of the Institute demonstrates an important change in the Federal Government's commitment to museums. No longer are these institutions considered merely shelters for special projects; they are now viewed as cultural foundations which require continual support to exist, build, experiment and expand."

The Cary Arboretum's application for this support was entitled "General Operating Support for Educational Services at the Cary Arboretum." Funds will be used to assist with the costs of presenting the Arboretum's varied programs of horticultural teaching, college and graduate instruction for science students, adult and continuing education courses in botany and related subjects, and the schedule of lectures and tours maintained for public benefit.

Around the Arboretum

Holiday Sale

The Cary Shop in Gifford House will be transformed into a holiday wonderland on Saturday, December 3, for a special sale of a Santa's pack of attractive seasonal plants and gift items.

The holiday sale will take place from 1 to 6 p.m. Members of Friends of the Cary Arboretum are, of course, entitled to 10% discount on all items.

Special Christmas items will include: white handmade macrame snowflakes, a nostalgic series of old-fashioned tree decorations, Christmas stockings adorned by a picture of St. Nick himself, Dutch-style "Sinter Klaus" dolls and a big selection of Christmas cards including cards from Morgan Library, Olsen Press and Windermere Press.

There will also be a special stock of unusual plants including such collectors' items as brilliant-blossomed *Streptocarpus.*

The Trees Are Marching Out

The Arboretum's Horticulture Department this Fall planted out about 250 trees from its seedling collection at permanent locations on the grounds. Most of the new plantings were from the willow (Salix) family and accordingly were placed in lowland locations along Flagler Drive, which borders the East Branch of Wappinger Creek.

More than 100 species, including many rare and unusual varieties of willow from Europe, Asia, and North America, were included in the fall planting schedule.

So far, the seven-year-old Arboretum has set out about 500 trees and shrubs on the grounds for the permanent living collection, all grown from seeds in the Cary Greenhouse-Nursery complex. In fact, the number now being planted exceeds, for the first time, the number of trees that are taken down each year to clear land for the living collection.

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People at the Arboretum

Carol and Dick Livellara met at the Arboretum two years ago and married at the Arboretum's Tea House overlook on a misty morning this past summer – a true Cary Arboretum match.

Carol, who is a graduate in Horticulture from the University of Rhode Island, had been working at the New York Botanical Garden, helping to supervise student horticulture studies. She was on a tour of the Arboretum as a newly appointed staff member here when she met her future husband.

Dick, who had worked at the New York Botanical Garden since 1953, transferred to the Arboretum in 1972 where he does plumbing and electrical work. He began by working on renovation of Conover House; the old farmhouse that became the Arboretum's first headquarters, and has gone on from that to a role in every major renovation and structural maintenance job on the grounds.

Carol started here maintaining plant records, and was later promoted to assistant to Horticulturist Robert Hebb, helping him to supervise many aspects of a very active program.

Though the newly married couple work in different departments, their paths cross occasionally during the day. But there are no complications from working close to each other. "If we were working together or competing with each other, it might be awkward," says Dick.

Dick and Carol are renting a house in Rhinebeck. They enjoy skiing and bicycling together. Dick hunts and Carol likes to garden in her spare time.

Their new life together has gotten off to a smooth start – after the wedding, they spent a few days on Cape Cod, came back to work for several weeks, and then took off on a "real honeymoon" in Hawaii.

Looking to the future, Carol says: "If he will quit smoking, I'll try to be more careful about where I leave things." And Dick, peering into his crystal ball, says: " . . . the development of the Arboretum will influence what we decide to do."

Around the Arboretum

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Wildlife Meetings

The Cary Arboretum's Wildlife Department was well represented at meetings of the Northeastern Deer Study Group in Moodus, Connecticut, in September. Wildlife Biologist Jay B. McAninch led a delegation that also included his assistant, Raymond Winchcombe and two students, Robert Tierney, an undergraduate of SUNY, New Paltz, and Mark Ellingwood, a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut.

The Arboretum contingent presented papers on deer food habits, ovarian analyses, capturing and tagging of deer, and a synopsis of the special hunting system set up at the Arboretum for study purposes.

Deer biologists from Virginia north to the Canadian provinces participated in the meetings.

Seeds From The Smokies

In late September, Horticulturist Robert Hebb and Plant Propagator Paul Mihan spent ten days in the Great Smoky Mountain area of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee, collecting more tree seeds for the Arboretum's living collection and for its seed exchange program with other botanical institutions.

After 5,000 miles of travel, they returned with more than 200 lots of native seeds, 100 of which are designated for the "Index Seminum," the list of seeds that the Arboretum offers to other institutions around the world on an exchange basis.

Our Fourth Wood-Burning Boiler

In time for the heating season, the Operations Department has installed the Arboretum's fourth wood-burning boiler. It was recently moved into the basement of Gifford House on the Sharon Turnpike, to heat the Education and Visitor Center.

The boiler, like three others installed in other Arboretum buildings last year, has a capacity of 300,000 B.T.U.'s. It consumes wood generated during normal trimming and clearing operations on the Arboretum's acreage.

Operations Coordinator Win Schubert expects that the boiler, which will now be the principal heating source for Gifford House, will reduce normal annual oil consumption of 6,000 gallons in that building by one-half to three-fourths.

New York State Urban Foresters to Train Here

The Cary Arboretum has been selected to give special training this winter to some fifteen urban foresters on the staff of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The Arboretum will offer an intensive course over a period of several days to include class work and field trips in the area and in New York City.

Members of the Arboretum professional staff will conduct the courses.

In a related development, the Arboretum has also been asked by the U. S. Forest Service to compile a Directory of Urban Foresters in the United States. The three-month assignment is on a contract basis. Arboretum staff working on the project include Dr. Payne, Dr. Elias, and Librarian Linda Vigars.

Power Station Consultancy

The Rochester Gas and Electric Company has retained the Cary Arboretum for environmental advice on siting of a power substation near Rochester. Dr. Gus Tillman, the Arboretum's Ecologist and expert on the ecology of power line rights-of-way, is determining whether the proposed site threatens a legally designated wetland area.

Cary to Propagate Rare Plant

The Arboretum has been asked by the Office of Endangered Species of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to attempt to propagate, primarily from seed, the threatened and endangered plant *Aconitum noveboracense*, commonly known as the northern wild monkshood.

The plant, about three feet high, and bearing an attractive purple flower, has been determined to be threatened with extinction.

The work at the Arboretum will be supervised by Assistant Director Thomas S. Elias, working closely with New York State Botanist Dr. Richard Mitchell.

NYBG Board at Arboretum

The Board of Managers of the New York Botanical Garden held one of its regular quarterly meetings at the Arboretum on October 14. The Arboretum is the Millbrook branch of the Garden.

More than 40 Garden Managers and members of their families, plus two Trustees of the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust, were on hand for the meeting and for tours of the Arboretum grounds and facilities.

While members of the Garden's Board have frequently visited the Arboretum as members of committees or as individuals, this was the first time the Board has held a regular business meeting at the Arboretum. Mr. Donald J. Bruckmann, Chairman of the Board, presided.

Elias to Egypt

Dr. Thomas S. Elias, Assistant Director of the Arboretum, is scheduled to be in Egypt November 4 to 8 to take part in an international workshop on management of wildlife in arid ecosystems.

The meeting has been organized by the Egyptian Academy of Scientific Research and Technology, in cooperation with the Egyptian Association for the Conservation of Natural Resources. The gathering takes place in Cairo, and there will be opportunities for excursions to visit locations of ecological interest outside the Egyptian capital. Expenses of Dr. Elias' trip are being defrayed by the U. S. Department of the Interior, using local currency funds generated by the U. S. Foreign Aid program.

This is Dr. Elias' fourth trip outside the country during the current calendar year. Earlier this year he has been on scientific visits to the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union, and has attended a scientific conference in England.

THE CARY ARBORETUM
of
THE NEW YORK
BOTANICAL GARDEN

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